A welcome face-lift

“You can see the wear and tear it took over the years,” said Shaw, a board member on the Freedom Park Association, the nonprofit group that owns and manages the site. Shaw noticed assistance from some of the people who helped build the 14-by-12-foot structure 25 years ago. Dan Nelson of Designs Northwest Architects in Stanwood; Camano Island stained glass artist Jack Archibald and Camano Island metal-worker Jason Vining. In 1997, after three years of mostly volunteer work, the Camano Island Chamber of Commerce opened Gateway Park. The art-centric site was an alternative development at the site.

Grant Shaw noticed the stained glass created by Archibald 25 years ago. “I’ve always wanted to redo that first design,” he said. "You can see the wear and tear it took over the years,” said Shaw, a board member on the Freedom Park Association, the nonprofit group that owns and manages the site. Shaw noticed assistance from some of the people who helped build the 14-by-12-foot structure 25 years ago. Dan Nelson of Designs Northwest Architects in Stanwood; Camano Island stained glass artist Jack Archibald and Camano Island metal-worker Jason Vining. In 1997, after three years of mostly volunteer work, the Camano Island Chamber of Commerce opened Gateway Park. The art-centric site was an alternative development at the site.

PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Camano Island stained glass artist Jack Archibald, left, and Grant Shaw install Archibald’s new stained glass in the Camano Gateway building on Sept. 15.

Amtrak back on schedule

Trains return to town for 1st time since May 2020

By IZZIE LUND
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Amtrak is returning to Stanwood after a two-year shutdown. On Sept. 26, the train will depart from Seattle at 7:45 a.m. and stop at five cities — Edmonds, Everett, Stanwood, Mount Vernon and Bellingham — before arriving in Vancouver at 11:45 a.m., according to Amtrak. It will then leave Vancouver at 4:45 p.m., stop at those five cities and arrive in Seattle at 10:10 p.m.

This comeback will be available every day, and Amtrak plans to offer a second daily trip in the future when they hire more staff. Services had been suspended since May 2020 when the U.S.-Canada border was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By IZZIE LUND
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An Amtrak Cascades train makes a stop in Stanwood last week as part of a test run from Seattle to Vancouver, B.C.

Stanwood business owners are excited at the return, saying it should be good for the local economy. "We would get a surge until they left," said Yvonne Corbett, owner of Laddies Clothing Co. "I’m game for them to come back. When they do stop, it’s only good for business.”

By IZZIE LUND
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Trains return to town for 1st time since May 2020

A public comment period has opened for the proposed behavioral health facility north of Stanwood.

On Sept. 15, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services announced that the project complies with the State Environmental Policy Act. After the SEPA review, the next step in the permit process is a comment period, followed by a hearing examiner’s meeting.

"The lead agency for this proposal has determined the proposal does not have a probable, significant adverse impact on the environment," the determination of nonsignificance states. The Snohomish County Hearing Examiner is scheduled to hear the project in October, officials have said.

The proposed facility is a 32-bed in-patient residential behavioral health facility on 13.5 acres owned by the Tulalip Tribes at a former Arabian horse farm on 29191 80th Avenue NW. It is part of the tribe’s five-year plan to increase smaller community facilities for mental health treatment.

By IZZIE LUND
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